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Ihre Zeichen

Ihr Schreiben vom

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Datum

25.03.2024

Letter of Recommendation for Assoc. Prof. Milan URBAN

Dear Prof. Kubala and Members of the Selection Committee,

It is a great pleasure to write a letter of recommendation for associate professor Milan URBAN, who is a scientist in the field of organic and medicinal chemistry at Palacký University of Olomouc in his nomination for a full professorship. I have known of his superb contributions for some considerable time and writing this recommendation is an absolute joy as there are so many positive things to say about this outstanding scientist. Milan is an internationally-leading expert in the synthesis and characterization of natural products in terms of their structure and function. He has specialized also in triterpene research, further understanding the chemistry and biology of these fascinating natural products, which have enormous importance and impact medicinally and culturally. His team have synthesized many derivatives thereof and studied their biological activities, and examples of this include cytotoxic action: an area of highly relevant value given the inexorable rise in cancer worldwide.

He is also a world expert in the chemistry and biology of secondary natural products and his group have investigated their use in a variety of areas. These are just some highlights of his work as he also has a strong interest in the phytochemistry.

Dr. Urban has developed multiple collaborations with International Institutions and these include Catholic University in Belgium, University of Colorado at Boulder in the USA, just to name only a few fine academic partners. He is an extremely creative and collaborative researcher – his programs have facilitated joint research projects, bringing academics and industrial researchers together and creating a significant momentum of research, to expedite staff flow and integration. This is a mark of considerable achievement – many researchers focus only on their own output, whilst to his extreme credit, Dr. Urban has sacrificed much of his time to

facilitate global and regional interactions. This will produce an exceptional legacy for the next generation of young scientists locally and globally.

Inspection of his exceptional research output (over 50 publications and patents), shows breadth but also depth of inquiry. His work on synthesis and catalysis, enzymology, analytical chemistry, phytochemistry, and biotech, coupled with a keen eye on ensuring that his output is always focused on the medicinal front, show the quality of this highly talented researcher. His work in the chemical modification of secondary natural products reveals how creative he is.

This creativity has found utility in the development of teaching of new courses, and I am absolutely astounded that he has been able to maintain a very high level of research funding and quality output. This is highly noteworthy. Milan is one of the top global scientists for many years in the field of triterpenoids – a fantastic achievement for any scientist!

Dr. Milan Urban is an outstanding, creative and talented researcher and leader and has developed a lasting legacy of achievements that mark him out as one of the finest scientists anywhere. His standing in the Scientific world as the leader in chemical research is without question.

I believe that this extraordinarily intelligent, dynamic, imaginative and productive researcher should be awarded a full professorship without hesitation. His contributions to research will continue to highlight his fine intellect and above all, show what can be achieved through devotion, dedication and focus for the next generation of young scientists.

Yours sincerely

Prof. Dr. R. Csuk, FRSC